

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY FIRE INVESTIGATION TASK FORCE

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

A meeting of the General Membership of the Brown County Fire Investigation Task Force was held on March 5, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., at the Ashwaubenon Public Safety Department, 2155 Holmgren Way, Green Bay, WI.

Present: Brad Muller, Greg Steenbock, Norman Heraly, Randy Lind, John Schweitzer, Steve Zich, Angie Cali, Joe Gabe, Kevin Heimerl, Glenn Deviley, Matt Maleport, Dan Kerkhoff, Tom Hendricks, Jim Stupka, Larry Wilson, Doug Peters, Rick Davidson, Terry Rottier, Kevin Tielens, Randy Tews, Eric Johnson, Dave Seidl, Brian Hoel, Daniel Dibbs, Lance Catalano

### Item #1. Adoption of Agenda.

Motion was made by Stupka and seconded by Deviley to adopt the agenda. **Motion carried.**

### Item #2. Review Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Motion was made by Deviley and seconded by Seidl to approve the minutes from the last meeting of December 4, 2008. **Motion carried.**

### Item #3. Report of Task Force Activities.

Muller reported that the fire investigation unit was called out to 12 fires since the last meeting as follows:

12-04-08	1910 Cypress Rd., Lawrence (residence/undetermined)
12-13-08	1450 Bylsby Ave., Green Bay (business/accidental)
12-24-08	1745 Badger St., Green Bay (residence/undetermined)
12-26-08	807 Elmore St., Green Bay (multi-family/under investigation)
12-30-08	856 James St., Green Bay (garage/accidental)
01-04-09	1478 Paulsen Rd., Ashwaubenon (business/accidental)
01-07-09	2039 Holmgren Way, Ashwaubenon (business/under investigation)
01-14-09	4731 Van Lanen Rd., Scott (residence/under investigation)
01-17-09	729 Riverview Dr., Howard (restaurant/accidental)
01-31-09	1860 University Ave., Green Bay (restaurant/accidental)
02-13-09	6701 CTH R, Denmark (barn/under investigation)
02-14-09	2737 Viking Dr., Ashwaubenon (apartment complex/accidental)

It was noted that there were convictions in the May's grocery store fire and there is going to be a retrial in the Jimmy Knight arson on Gemini Road in Bellevue.

Item #4. Information from Board of Directors Meeting.

Muller reported that the county agreement is now in MABAS' hands for review of being put in with their agreement. Discussion will be brought up at the next Board meeting in reference to responding to calls outside of the county in an area served by a Brown County fire department. The Board approved Cali as an intern. The next meeting is March 19, 2009.

Item #5. Old Business.

Muller reminded everyone that the annual \$5 membership dues are due. Update Muller of any phone number or e-mail address changes. An election committee consisting of Kerkhoff was formed for the fall election of officers.

Item #6. New Business.

Muller reported the annual statistics of the fire investigation unit for 2008. There were 23 callouts of which 8 were accidental, 5 were arson, 8 were undetermined, and 2 are under investigation. There was a total dollar loss of \$6,467,600 of which \$2,480,000 was accidental, \$132,600 was arson, \$3,730,000 was undetermined, and \$125,000 is under investigation. Of the annual \$30,000 budget, \$10,396 was used for equipment, \$1,703 was used for training, \$7,818 was used for fire callouts, and \$1,512 was used for meetings. The remaining balance was not approved by the County Board to be put into a contingency fund for a new truck.

The IAAI spring conference will be held in Stevens Point from June 2-4, 2009.

Arson awareness week is the first week of May and it was suggested that the fire investigation unit and juvenile firesetter personnel do promotional activities. A committee consisting of Stupka, Johnson, Cali, and Nick Craig was formed to do this.

Item #7. Juvenile Firesetter Business.

JFS coordinator Nick Craig was not present.

Wilson reported that the Brown County Fire Safety Association is now a 501(c)(3) organization and provided a copy of bylaws. Wilson requested that Beau Liegeois be sent a thank you letter for his help and pro bono work in establishing the 501(c)(3). He stated that Liegeois offered to work pro bono in the future, which will have to be brought up to the Board for approval. A committee was formed consisting of Wilson, Seidl, and Craig to develop goals for the organization. There is a \$14,000 balance in the City's trust account that was raised 5-6 years ago to buy the safety house. A new bank account will be opened for the association and this money will be transferred into it to be used for expenses and to also replenish the account. Wilson stated that Jeff Stauber offered to

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help with grant writing. It was noted that we need to keep in touch with the contributor base. It was suggested putting together a brochure for distribution explaining the safety house. A storage area is still needed for the safety house.

Item #8. Other Matters.

Heimerl of DCI stated that they are looking at the barn fire in Denmark and one in Kewaunee County to see if they are related as they occurred in a concentrated area. He said that all fire departments should be made aware of the fact that these may be suspicious fires in the event of future fires.

Item #9. Set Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting.

The next meeting is set for May 28, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., at De Pere fire station #1, 400 Lewis St., De Pere, WI.

Item #10. Training.

Members of the Appleton Fire Department Investigation Unit came with their vehicle and equipment to compare with ours in an effort to obtain ideas when we purchase a new vehicle in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Laurent  
Recording Secretary